

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00
ACDA-12 /078 W

-----089608 231629Z /75

O 231615Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1817
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T USNATO 05206

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE: UK PROPOSAL ON MBFR

REF: (A) USNATO 5169 DTG 221958Z MAY 78, (B) USNATO 5137
- DTG 221145Z MAY 78, (C) USNATO 5056 DTG 191426Z MAY
- 78, (D) STATE 126717 DTG 200059Z MAY 78
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1. SPC MEETING 22 MAY DISCUSSED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE UK
SUGGESTION THAT THE NATO COMMUNIQUE INCLUDE A PROPOSAL FOR
A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING ON MBFR. SPC DECIDED UK, FRG
AND NETHERLANDS WOULD COORDINATE TO PRODUCE SINGLE TEXT FOR
SPC COMMUNIQUE DISCUSSION. SUBSTANCE OF UK PROPOSAL WILL
PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED AT 24 MAY NAC.

2. ALTHOUGH THE SPC DELIBERATELY AVOIDED COMING TO GRIPS
WITH THE ISSUE FOR THE MOMENT, REPRESENTATIVES EXCHANGED
"FIRST IMPRESSIONS" OF NATIONAL REACTIONS. FROM THIS
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DISCUSSION WE IDENTIFY TWO BASIC PROBLEMS:

(A) PRESENTATION

- SOME REPS (BELGIAN, ITALIAN) SUGGESTED INCLUDING A
MORE COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF POINTS TO WHICH THE EAST
MUST RESPOND SATISFACTORILY, E.G. OPTION III, ASSOCIATED

MEASURES. EXCLUDING THESE POINTS, IN THEIR EYES, WOULD IMPLY REDUCED WESTERN INTEREST IN SUCH SUBJECTS. CANADIAN REP, HOWEVER, ARGUED THAT IDENTIFYING ANY "MEASURING STICK," EVEN DATA, LIMITED ALLIANCE FLEXIBILITY IN DETERMINING WHAT AN ADEQUATE RESPONSE WOULD BE. OTHER DELEGATIONS (UK, FRG) RESPONDED THAT MERELY "ADEQUATE RESPONSE" LEFT TOO MUCH ROOM FOR PRESSURE FROM THE EAST AND SOME PRECISION ON WHAT CONSTITUTED ADEQUACY, E.G. "CLARIFICATION" OF THE DATA PROBLEM, WAS NECESSARY TO DEFUSE THE POTENTIAL FOR PRESSURE FROM THE EAST.

(B) WEST AS DEMANDEUR

- DUTCH AND ITALIAN REPS POINTED OUT THE WEAKNESS OF THE WEST ATTACHING CONDITIONS TO A MEETING THE EAST HAS GIVEN NO INDICATIONS IT DESIRES. THEY NOTED THE ALLIANCE WOULD BE IN A WEAK POSITION TO RESIST EASTERN CLAIMS THAT THEIR RESPONSES HAVE BEEN ADEQUATE. ITALIAN REP CLAIMED THAT IF THERE WAS AN ADEQUATE DATA RESPONSE THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING. MOREOVER, IF THE ALLIANCE MADE THE OFFER FOR A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING AND THE EAST DID NOT RESPOND "ADEQUATELY," THE EAST COULD STILL EXERT SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC PRESSURE FOR THE MEETING IMPLYING THERE WOULD BE PROGRESS IF THE MEETING WERE HELD. BELGIAN REP CAUTIONED AGAINST STARTING A PUBLIC OPINION CONTEST WITH THE EAST -- A FIELD IN WHICH THEY HAVE A NUMBER OF
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ADVANTAGES.

3. IN GLANCING DISCUSSION OF THE ASSORTED TEXTS, ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THE FRG DRAFT. FRG REP NOTED ITS SUBMISSION WAS NOT A FULLY FORMULATED ALTERNATIVE BUT RATHER SUMMARY OF ITEMS BELIEVED APPROPRIATE FOR INCLUSION IN COMMUNIQUE. FOLLOWING ARE A SELECTION OF SPECIFIC COMMENTS:

(A) DUTCH REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED FRG DRAFT WAS DISPROPORTIONATELY LONG AND WOULD REQUIRE SHORTENING. HE SUGGESTED SEVERAL PRIMARY FRG CONCERNS COULD BE ACCOMMODATED BY DUTCH DRAFT.

(B) UK AND NETHERLANDS REPS QUESTIONED POINT IN PARA 3 OF FRG DRAFT (REF B) THAT THE SOVIETS HAD RENOUNCED MILITARY SUPERIORITY. THEY SUGGESTED THAT EVEN IF ACCURATE, IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THE MBFR PORTION OF THE COMMUNIQUE AND WOULD BE BETTER PLACED IN PARA 16.

(C) IN RESPONSE TO US QUESTION ON WHAT "CLARIFICATION" OF DATA MEANT, FRG REP DESCRIBED IT AS A "SATISFACTORY SUPPLEMENT" OF THE INITIAL DATA POSITION. COMMENT: FRG HAS NOW

MADE CLEAR THAT "CLARIFICATION" DOES NOT MEAN TOTAL RESOLUTION OF THE DATA PROBLEM. END COMMENT.

4. WE MADE POINTS REF D AT SPC AND HAVE ASSURED THAT TRILATERAL GROUP PRODUCING A COORDINATED DRAFT WILL BEAR THEM IN MIND. WE WILL NOT REQUIRE FURTHER WASHINGTON GUIDANCE UNTIL THE DISCUSSION IN THE NAC ON 24 MAY CLARIFIES THE STATUS OF THE UK PROPOSAL. GLITMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, COMMUNIQUEs, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO05206
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780216-0977
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780526/aaaaawgd.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 35734698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USNATO 5169, 78 USNATO 5137
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2595965
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE: UK PROPOSAL ON MBFR
TAGS: PARM, NL, NATO, MBFR
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/35734698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014